

FROM THE DEAN

Please join us Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. for our "Ask the Experts Dutch Lunch" at the Madfish Grille, 4059 Cattlemen Road in Sarasota. Reservations are required, so contact Dwane Grace no later than Friday Feb. 19. This is a casual get-together for members, colleagues, spouses, and friends. In addition, Dr. Jim Culver will be there to answer any choral questions, and Dr. Ann Stephenson-Moe will be available to answer any questions about the organ.

Many thanks to Rick Holdsworth and Pine Shores Presbyterian Church for hosting and coordinating the Hymn Festival conducted by David Cherwien. He is a very talented composer and improviser. Some 60 singers attended the event.

How quickly time flies! The season of the Epiphany is behind us, and we are already beginning new seasons of Lent and Easter. Ash Wednesday is next week, and Easter is March 27. For those of us with choirs, it has always seemed strange that Lent is the season when we get the greatest influx of visitors and "snowbirds" from the northern climates. In the old days, Lent was always a rather subdued, but for us down here it is a time that we can do more glorious choral works with more singers. Then, immediately after Easter most seasonal residents return to their homes up north and things quiet down a bit.

I hope to see you Feb. 23.

Carl Parks, Dean
Sarasota-Manatee Chapter
American Guild of Organists